

DECLASSIFIED

April 28, 1969

Dear Congressman Ruppe:

In your letter of April 17, 1969 you requested information on the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system which would acquaint you with the issues. Enclosed are materials which were developed by the Department of Defense for this purpose. I trust that they will be of help to you.

You also asked for the State Department's viewpoint on the international political considerations involved in the establishment of the system. There were several such considerations, and I can assure you that they were fully taken into account in the decisions related to the Safeguard program. Secretary Rogers participated fully in these discussions as a member of the NSC and as principal foreign policy advisor to the President.

A major consideration underlying our foreign relations in the nuclear era is that we maintain a credible deterrent to a nuclear attack on the US or our allies. We could not have an effective foreign policy without effective deterrence, and thus the Department of State is concerned with and continuously involved in decisions affecting our strategic posture. We fully support the decision to proceed with the Safeguard ballistic-missile defense program because we are convinced that it is an essential measure to assure the continued viability to our deterrent posture.

The other important foreign policy consideration that had to be weighed with respect to the Safeguard program was the effect that such a program would have on the prospects for engaging in strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union and for the successful negotiation of such an

Honorable Philip E. Ruppe
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *7/15/80*
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

DEF 12 US

J/PM: L Sloss

agreement. This matter was very carefully considered with regard to the Safeguard decision. You will recall that the so-called Sentinel ABM program already was underway under the previous Administration. Safeguard is a major modification of that program. It is our conviction that the modifications envisioned in the Safeguard program should improve rather than lessen prospects for successful strategic arms limitation discussions.

There are two features of the new Safeguard program which, in our view, should facilitate a strategic arms agreement. In the first place, the ABM sites are being removed from major urban centers so it should be quite clear that the objectives of the system are limited and do not constitute a threat to the Soviet deterrent capability. Secondly, the pace of deployment has been slowed and future deployment is so phased that the program could be reoriented or terminated at any time should there be a change in the strategic or political situation which would warrant such a step.

In sum, the Department fully supports the Safeguard program as an essential step under current conditions to safeguard our deterrent and support our diplomatic posture. At the same time, we believe that the revised program is consistent with our desire for strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union.

If I can be of any further assistance in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

WBM

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

K/T/WBM 4/25/69

Enclosures

Copies to: ACDA - Mr. Aaron

ISA - Mr. Bartholomew

J/PM:LSloss:ijg
4/25/69 Ext. 4563

RECEIVED

PHILIP E. RUPPE
11TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

509 CANNON OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
CODE 202-225-4735

DECLASSIFIED

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 17, 1969

38
COMMITTEES:
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

ACTION
is assigned to

J/PM

Mr. William Macomber
Assistant Secretary
State Department
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Macomber:

In an effort to better acquaint myself with the arguments surrounding development of the anti-ballistic missile system, "Safeguard," I would appreciate whatever information the Department of State might be able to furnish on the subject.

I would especially appreciate knowing the Department's viewpoints of the international political considerations involved in the establishment of the system.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Philip E. Ruppe
Philip E. Ruppe
Member of Congress

PER:mjl

11035

DECLASSIFIED

DEF

12

US

②

4/21/69



DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 25, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. Mr. Macomber

FROM: J/PM Philip J. Farley *PP*

SUBJECT: Letter to Congressman Puppe

1. I attach a reply to Congressman Ruppe's request for information regarding the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system. Attached are materials which have been developed by the Department of Defense for answering similar Congressional and public inquiries.
2. RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the attached letter.

Attachments.

Clearance: ACDA - Mr. Aaron *AA*
OSD/ISA - Mr. Bartholomew *B*

JA
J/PM:LSloss:mjs 4/25/69

DECLASSIFIED